

Appl. No.: 09/808,553
Amdt. dated September 10, 2004
Reply to Office action of June 10, 2004

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-20. (Cancelled)

1 21. (New) A method for storing and accessing user-specific data in a client-server
2 computer network, the method comprising the steps of:
3 a user sending, from a first computer, a request to store user-specific data to a first
4 server in the network;
5 determining, based on a location of the first computer in the network, a second server
6 in the network for storing the user-specific data;
7 redirecting the request to the second server for storing of the user-specific data at the
8 second server; and
9 automatically redirecting subsequent requests relating to the user-specific data from
10 the first computer to the second server.

1 22. (New) The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the first server comprises an
2 application server element and a determination server element and the method comprises the
3 user sending, from the first computer, the request to store user-specific data to the
4 application server element, and redirecting the request to the determination server element
5 for determining, based on the location of the first computer in the network, the second server
6 in the network for storing the user-specific data.

1 23. (New) The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the application server element
2 and the determination server element are located on different computers in the network.

1 24. (New) The method as claimed in claim 21, further comprising the user or another
2 user sending, from a second computer, a request relating to the user-specific data to the first
3 server; and redirecting the request to the second server.

1 25. (New) The method as claimed in claim 24, further comprising the steps of replicating
2 at least a portion of the user-specific data on a third server selected based on a location of
3 the second computer on the network, and redirecting requests relating to the user-specific
4 content from the second computer to the third server.

1 26. (New) The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the step of determining, based on
2 a location of the first computer in the network, the second server in the network for storing
3 the user-specific data comprises measuring respective response times between the first
4 computer and each of a plurality of candidate servers.

1 27. (New) The method as claimed in claim 26, wherein the one of the candidate servers
2 having the shortest response time is determined as the second server.

1 28. (New) The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein transactions between the first
2 computer and the second server are conducted in an encrypted manner.

1 29. (New) A system for storing and accessing user-specific data in a client-server
2 computer network, the system comprising:
3 a first server;
4 a first computer operated by a user for sending a request to store user-specific data to
5 the first server;
6 wherein the first server determines, based on a location of the first computer in the
7 network, a second server for storing the user-specific data; redirects the request to the
8 second server for storing of the user-specific data at the second server, and automatically
9 redirects subsequent requests relating to the user-specific data from the first computer to the
10 second server.

1 30. (New) The system as claimed in claim 29, wherein the first server comprises an
2 application server element, and
3 a determination server element,
4 wherein the application server element receives the request to store user-specific
5 data, sent by the user from the first computer, and redirects the request to the determination
6 server element for determining, based on the location of the first computer in the network,
7 the second server in the network for storing the user-specific data.

1 31. (New) The system as claimed in claim 30, wherein the application server element
2 and the determination server element are located on different computers in the network.

1 32. (New) The system as claimed in claim 29, further comprising a second computer
2 operated by the user or another user for sending a request relating to the user-specific data to
3 the first server; and wherein the first server redirects the request to the second server.

1 33. (New) The system as claimed in claim 32, wherein the first server facilitates
2 replication of at least a portion of the user-specific data on a third server selected based on a
3 location of the second computer on the network, and redirects requests relating to the user-
4 specific content from the second computer to the third server.

1 34. (New) The system as claimed in claim 29, wherein the first server measures
2 respective response times between the first computer and each of a plurality of candidate
3 servers during determining the second server for storing the user-specific data

1 35. (New) The system as claimed in claim 34, wherein the first server determined the
2 one of the candidate servers having the shortest response time as the second server.

1 36. (New) The system as claimed in claim 29, wherein the system is arranged such that
2 transactions between the first computer and the second server are conducted in an encrypted
3 manner.